

CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN CLEVELAND, MN

JULY 2010
Vol. 28 No. 7



CHRISTIAN LOVE

By John Kester, Pastor

*Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you,
and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.
Matthew 6:44*

For the past few days, I have been giving some thought to what it means to really love like Jesus loved. We all know that it is not too difficult to love people who treat us well. It is maybe not too hard to love people that we will never meet. Why wouldn't we? They haven't done anything to keep us from loving them. It is not even that difficult to have kind feelings towards people who are indifferent to us. I can find it within me to love people who fit in each of these categories.

What I find more difficult is to love people who are not so nice. I have a very difficult time loving people who are unkind to the people I love. My initial reaction is to step in and take action. Because words are my stock and trade, I go over and over in my head what I will say to the person who has offended me. I mentally compose scathing remarks that in my addled mind will cause that person to think better of their actions. After all, don't you think someone will come to love Jesus and live like him when I utter biting, sarcastic comments? And I am sure my well-reasoned arguments will make the offender see the error of his/her ways. It's simple logic, isn't it? Well, maybe not so much....

As much as I hate to admit it, my best course of action is to refuse to be sucked into a disagreement. Things will be much better if I refuse to return evil for evil. In fact, it is in situations like these, where I have been hurt and everything in me screams to lash out against the one who hurt me that I have a perfect opportunity to live as Christ directed.

Two actions form the core of how we behave towards those who hate us. The first is to do good. You may notice that Jesus does not say wait until you feel like doing good to those who have been unkind to you. He simply says do good to those who hate you. This is incredibly difficult to do. But I contend that it will be life changing for you and possibly life changing for the person who hates you. The second thing that Jesus says to do is to pray for the one who has hurt you. I have found that it is difficult to treat a person badly when I am praying for them. It becomes pretty hypocritical to treat someone poorly that you are begging God to bless.

When I am feeling used and abused, I would do well to remember these commands of Jesus. Do good and pray. These are the proper responses when someone has hurt us. I pray we will be courageous enough to return evil with good. When we do that Jesus is demonstrated and the world is transformed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS JULY 2010



All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- July 1 – Bible Study at 1:00pm
- July 2-4 – PHCA Ladies Retreat
- July 4 – Independence Day (USA)
- July 6-9 – North American Christian Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana (John Kester will be attending)*
- July 7, 14, 21, 28 – Bible Study 6:30pm-8:00pm
- July 8 – NO Bible study at church
- July 11 – Monthly Building Offering
- July 13 – Dorcas Fellowship at 11:30pm*
- July 13 – Church Board meeting at 7:30pm
- July 15 – Ladies Night Out at 6:00 pm*
- July 15, 22, 29 – Bible Study at 1:00pm
- July 15-17 – SONSHINE Music Festival, Willmar, MN
- July 16-18 – PHCA Adult Weekend
- July 25 – Prayer Meeting at church at 12:00pm*
- July 25-31 – PHCA 7th & 8th Grade (Zone A)
- July 31 – Heart to Heart distribution

COMING IN AUGUST

- August 1-5 – Vacation Bible School*
- August 9 – Crossroads CollegeDay at Valleyfair*
- August 19 – September newsletter articles due
- August 28 – Heart to Heart distribution



CONGRATULATIONS to Ciara Guentzel who was baptized on June 18, 2010 at Pine Haven camp! Please pray for her growth in Christ.



PRAYER MEETINGS

Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees." Corrie ten Boom

We want to avail ourselves of the power that is available when we pray. For this reason, our prayer meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, July 25. We plan to gather from 12:00-12:45pm and approach God together in prayer.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School is being offered to keep us wide-awake and heading in the right direction. Our ladies class meets in the Library and they are currently studying from the book of Romans. Our other Adult class meets in Room 5 and they are studying from 2 Corinthians. A third class is being offered for kids of all ages (4 to 100 years). This class is taught by John Kester in the Fireside Room and will explore some of the heroes and villains of the Bible.

NORTH AMERICAN CHRISTIAN CONVENTION

John Kester and his family will be attending the North American Christian Convention in Indianapolis, IN, July 6-11. In John's absence, Sherm Rupe will be preaching on July 11.



PHCA 2010 CAMP SCHEDULE

Based on grades going into Fall 2010
Cleveland is in Zone A

| | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| July 2-4 | Ladies Retreat |
| July 16-18 | Adult Weekend |
| July 25-31 | 7th & 8th Grade (Zone A) |
| Aug 8-11 | 4th Grade |
| Aug 12-15 | Family Weekend |
| Aug 15-20 | 5th & 6th Grade (Zone A) |
| Aug 20-22 | Motorcycle Weekend |
| Sept 3-6 | Last Chance Camp |
| Sept 9-12 | Scrapbook Weekend 1 |
| Sept 16-19 | Scrapbook Weekend 2 |
| Sept 23-25 | Fall Work Weekend |

DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

The ladies will meet on Tuesday, July 13 at 11:30am at church to pool rides to St. Peter for lunch at the Country Kitchen.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

On Thursday, July 15 at 6:00pm, the ladies will be meeting at China Buffet in Mankato. Come and enjoy a fun time of visiting. Ladies from inside and outside our congregation are welcome to join in the activity.



Church of Christ in Cleveland, MN
Vacation Bible School



CELEBRATION PARK

Kids, Get ready for a theme park adventure you will never forget. Come to CELEBRATION PARK to learn about celebrating Jesus' love for us. Experience for yourself Thanksgiving Acres, Christmas Country, Valentine Village and Easter Cave. Featured activities include singing, Bible lessons, crafts, memory verse challenges, raising money for our VBS sponsored child in Haiti, and snacks. Earn tickets during the week for our final night CELEBRATION PARK EXTRAVAGANZA CARNIVAL. It's all FREE to attend!!! Invite your friends, neighbors, cousins, and everyone else to come with you to CELEBRATION PARK! Tell your parents to sign you up with the registration form below or register online at www.clevelandchurch.net.

Celebrating Jesus Throughout The Year

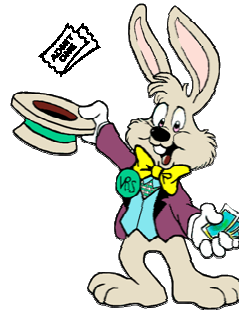
WHEN: Sunday-Thursday, August 1 - 5, 2010
 6:30pm-8:30pm nightly for VBS with optional 6:00pm light supper
 Thursday night – Program & Carnival for VBS kids, parents, friends

WHO: For Kids ages 4 years to 6th grade completed

HOW: Complete registration form and mail to or drop at

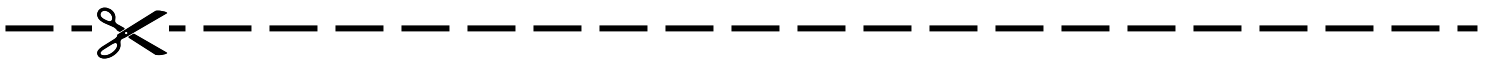
Church of Christ
 900 State Hwy 99
 PO Box 307
 Cleveland, MN 56017

or register online at www.clevelandchurch.net



For VBS general info,
 contact our church office at
 507-931-5924 or
clchurch@live.com

For volunteering to help with
 VBS, contact VBS Director
 Ellen Dickie at
 507-381-0351 or
ellenandgraydon@msn.com



Cleveland Church of Christ VBS 2010 Registration Form

| Parent Full Name: | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Parent Complete Mailing Address: | | | | |
| Parent Phone(s): | | | | |
| Parent Email Address: | | | | |
| Child Name | | Birth Mo Day Yr | Age as of Aug. 1 | Grade Completed |
| | → | | | |
| | → | | | |
| | → | | | |
| | → | | | |
| My children will most likely come for the optional 6:00pm light supper: YES or NO | | | | |
| Explain any food allergies: | | | | |
| Explain any other health-related needs: | | | | |
| Other comments: | | | | |



July 3, 2010 Note: This announcement about Crossroads College Day at Valleyfair is updated from the mailed out paper version of our July newsletter.



JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 1– Scott & Roxanne Tuma
- 7– Scott & Debra Schmidt
- 8– Jim & Deb Ely
- 12– Herb & Lori Moon
- 13– Babu & Mercy Samuel
(missionaries in India)
- 28– Russ & Judy Lloyd
- 29– Art & Betty Davis



JULY BIRTHDAYS:

- 1– Hope Ahlberg
- 1– Ken Krenik
- 1– Doug Swedberg
- 7– Alisha Goettlicher
- 7– Gary Kunz
- 10– Grant Den Herder
- 11– Jo Rupe
- 11– James Tuma
- 12– Joyce Chadderdon
- 14– Herb Moon
- 15– JoLene Giersdorf
- 15– Mary Howells
- 16– Kurt Nelson
- 17– Alec Rogers
- 18– Cheryl Kester
- 25– Steve Henze
- 26– Amy Den Herder
- 26– Riley Esser
- 26– Daniel Phillips
- 26– Tony Siebert
- 27– Linda Marshall
(retired missionary to Zimbabwe)
- 27– Jesse Tuma
- 28– Kelly Theis
- 29– Krysti Brockberg

Crossroads College Day at VALLEYFAIR is Monday, August 9, 2010.

The cost is your entry ticket and money for food.

For drivers, add parking \$10-12 depending on vehicle size.

Entry Tickets: \$28 per person (3 - 61yrs AND 48" & taller in shoes)

\$18 for Adults 62yrs & up

\$18 for Children 3yrs & older AND less than 48" tall

Children 2yrs & younger are free

Crossroads Group Sales Window is open 9:00am–Noon to buy tickets at above discounted price. Tickets must be purchased at Crossroads College window on day of event. Cash or check only. Youth Group Leaders receive one free ticket with groups of 10 or more with a limit of one free ticket per group. (Valleyfair hours on August 9 are 10am-10pm. Regular Valleyfair ticket price is 39.99/18.99 respectively.)

Crossroads will be hosting a Worship Service in the Amphitheater at 5:30pm.

EVERYONE/ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO COME TO CROSSROADS COLLEGE DAY AT VALLEYFAIR.

We wish to assure our teens are chaperoned, however. If you wish to go as a family and care for your own children, that is certainly possible. PLEASE sign up on the sign up sheet at the Cleveland Church of Christ located on the foyer table, or call the church office at 507-931-5924. If you would like to chaperone and / or transport our youth, please sign you name in the designated place on the same sign up sheet.

www.clevelandchurch.net

www.crossroadscollege.edu

www.valleyfair.com



THANK YOU to all the Men and Women who serve our country. Happy 4th of July!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

While we greet each other at our worship services, we may not really know each other that well. We'd like to feature someone each month in our newsletter. Please meet Wendy Eckert and Mamie Schoknecht.

WENDY KAY ECKERT

Birthplace - Robinsdale, MN

Family - Husband Ron, 4 dogs, Parents Gloria and Dale Purnick, In-Laws Jim and Helen, Very Good Friends.

Work - Trained Medication Aid, Mankato House, Faribault Commons; Past EMT, Education-Nursing Assistant, Trained Medication Aid, EMT, Professional Sales

Favorite Food - Wheat-free pasta dishes, Ice Cream

Hobbies - Gardening, Crafting, Bird Watching, Nature Walks, Fishing and Camping

Fondest Childhood Memory - Fishing with my dad; spending time at my grandparent's cabin in Briggs Lake, MN

Favorite Bible Verse - There are so many!

How I Became A Christian - I grew up Presbyterian. However, an angel in my life invited me to Friend Day and I felt as though this was my home.

I Will Never Forget - All the friends in my life who have encouraged me in my walk with Christ; that Jesus died for our sins; to forgive.

My Biggest Challenge - My fears; courage to go to nursing school; math; self-esteem.

A Life Lesson I Would Like To Pass On - Education early in life is helpful later in life. Kids...pay attention in school!

MAMIE SCHOKNECHT

Birthplace - Shakopee, MN

Family - Mathan Schoknecht, Joe Schoknecht, Cody Schoknecht, Pam Aanas, Andrea Gay, Angela and Andrew Hewitt.

Favorite Food - Chocolate

Hobbies - Riding Bike

Fondest Childhood Memory - My first year at Pine Haven Camp

Favorite Bible Verses - Revelation 22: 12-21

How I Became A Christian - My grandma brought me to church

I Will Never Forget - My loving family, God and church.

My Biggest Challenge - Forgiving and forgetting.

A Life Lesson I Would Like To Pass On - Love all; forgive and forget.

CLEVELAND CHURCH OF CHRIST

FRIEND DAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

10:30 AM Worship Service
with a meal afterwards

**SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR
CALENDAR!**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

900 State Highway 99

Mail to: PO Box 307

Cleveland, MN 56017

Church Web: www.clevelandchurch.net

Office Phone: (507) 931-5924

Office Email: clchurch@live.com

Prayer Chain: clchurchprayer@live.com

OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ

PASTOR: John Kester

CHURCH SECRETARY: Lisa Koppelman

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. – Bible Classes for all ages

10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service